

Appl. No. 09/517,127
Response to Office Action mailed 09/21/2007

In the Claims

1. [Previously Presented] A semiconductor processor system comprising:
 - a process chamber adapted to process at least one semiconductor workpiece using a process fluid;
 - a connection coupled with the process chamber and configured to receive the process fluid;
 - a sensor coupled with the connection and configured to output a signal indicative of the process fluid;
 - a control system coupled with the sensor and configured to control at least one operation of the semiconductor processor system responsive to the signal; wherein the sensor is configured to monitor turbidity of the process fluid;
 - wherein the connection is adapted to couple with a process fluid supply and is configured to supply process fluid from the process fluid supply to the process chamber; and
 - a flush system coupled with the connection and configured to selectively flush the connection.
2. [Original] The system according to claim 1 wherein the connection comprises a connection of a sampling system configured to provide the process fluid in a substantially static state.

Appl. No. 09/517,127
Response to Office Action mailed 09/21/2007

3. [Previously Presented] The system according to claim 2 wherein the control system is configured to compare the substantially static process fluid with a signature to determine at least one characteristic of the process fluid.

4. [Original] The system according to claim 3 wherein the control system is configured to control a flow rate of the process fluid into the process chamber responsive to the comparison.

5. [Original] The system according to claim 4 wherein the control system is configured to halt processing within the process chamber responsive to the comparison.

Claims 6-9 [canceled].

10. [Original] The system according to claim 1 wherein the sensor is configured to output a signal indicative of accumulation of particulate matter within the connection.

11. [Original] The system according to claim 1 wherein the control system is configured to process the signal to monitor processing of the at least one semiconductor workpiece within the process chamber.

12. [Canceled].

Appl. No. 09/517,127
Response to Office Action mailed 09/21/2007

13. [Previously Presented] The system according to claim 1 wherein the flush system is configured to flush the connection with at least one of the process fluid and a rinse fluid.

14. [Previously Presented] The system according to claim 1 wherein the flush system is configured to flush the connection responsive to control from the control system.

15. [Original] The system according to claim 1 further comprising a mixing system configured to mix plural components of the process fluid and the control system is configured to control the mixing system.

16. [Original] The system according to claim 1 further comprising a storage device configured to store historical data corresponding to the process fluid.

17. [Original] The system according to claim 1 wherein the process chamber comprises a process chamber of a chemical-mechanical polishing processor.

18. [Currently Amended] A semiconductor processor system comprising:
a process chamber adapted to process at least one semiconductor workpiece using a process fluid;
a connection coupled with the process chamber and configured to transport the process fluid;

Appl. No. 09/517,127
Response to Office Action mailed 09/21/2007

a sampling system coupled with the connection and configured to receive a sample of the process fluid;

a sensor coupled with the sampling system and configured to output a signal indicative of turbidity of the sample of the process fluid; and

a control system coupled with the sensor and configured to control at least one operation of the semiconductor processor system responsive to the signal;

wherein the sample of the process fluid is in a substantially static state in the sampling system;

wherein the control system is configured to compare the sample of the process fluid with a signature to determine at least one characteristic of the process fluid; and

wherein the control system is configured to control a flow rate of the process fluid into the process chamber responsive to the comparison.

Claims 19-21 [canceled].

22. [Previously Presented] The system according to claim 18 wherein the sensor is configured to monitor a percentage of solids present in a liquid of the process fluid to provide information regarding the turbidity of the process fluid.

23. [Original] The system according to claim 18 wherein the control system is configured to control the sampling system to draw the sample of the process fluid.

Appl. No. 09/517,127
Response to Office Action mailed 09/21/2007

24. [Original] The system according to claim 18 wherein the control system is configured to monitor operation of the semiconductor processor system and to control the sampling system to draw the sample during defined operations of the semiconductor processor system.

25. [Original] The system according to claim 18 further comprising a storage device coupled with the sensor and configured to store historical data corresponding to the process fluid.

26. [Original] The system according to claim 18 wherein the process chamber comprises a process chamber of a chemical-mechanical polishing processor.

Claims 27-38 [canceled].

39. [Previously Presented] A semiconductor processor system comprising:
a process chamber adapted to process at least one semiconductor workpiece using a process fluid;
a process fluid system including:
a connection coupled with the process chamber and configured to transport process fluid relative to the process chamber;
a flush system configured to flush the connection using a flush fluid; and
a sensor coupled with the flush system and configured to output a signal indicative of the flush fluid;

Appl. No. 09/517,127
Response to Office Action mailed 09/21/2007

a control system coupled with the sensor and configured to control the flush system to flush the connection responsive to the signal; and
wherein the control system is configured to control the flush system to prime the connection responsive to a start-up operation of the semiconductor processor system.

40. [Canceled].

41. [Previously Presented] The system according to claim 39 wherein the flush system is configured to prime the connection with flush fluid comprising process fluid responsive to the start-up operation.

42. [Previously Presented] The system according to claim 39 wherein the sensor is configured to monitor turbidity of the flush fluid and the control system is configured to control the flush system responsive to the turbidity of the flush fluid.

43. [Previously Presented] The system according to claim 39 wherein the control system is configured to control the flush system to rinse the connection responsive to a halt operation of the semiconductor processor system.

44. [Previously Presented] The system according to claim 43 wherein the flush system is configured to rinse the connection with flush fluid comprising rinse fluid responsive to the halt operation.

Appl. No. 09/517,127
Response to Office Action mailed 09/21/2007

45. [Previously Presented] The system according to claim 43 wherein the sensor is configured to monitor turbidity of the flush fluid and the control system is configured to control the flush system responsive to the turbidity of the flush fluid.

46. [Previously Presented] The system according to claim 39 wherein the sensor is configured to monitor turbidity of the flush fluid.

47. [Previously Presented] The system according to claim 39 wherein the process fluid system is configured to supply process fluid to the process chamber.

48. [Previously Presented] The system according to claim 39 wherein the process chamber comprises a process chamber of a chemical-mechanical polishing processor.

49. [Currently Amended] A semiconductor processor system comprising:
a process chamber adapted to process at least one semiconductor workpiece using a process fluid;

a connection configured to transport the process fluid relative to the process chamber;

a sensor coupled with the connection and configured to output a signal indicative of accumulation of particulate matter within the connection; and

a control system coupled with the sensor and configured to monitor the accumulation responsive to the signal; and

Appl. No. 09/517,127
Response to Office Action mailed 09/21/2007

a flush system configured to flush the connection and wherein the control system is configured to control the flush system responsive to monitoring the accumulation.

50. [Original] The system according to claim 49 wherein the connection is arranged in a substantially horizontal orientation.

51. [Original] The system according to claim 50 wherein the sensor is arranged to monitor accumulation in a substantially vertical orientation with respect to the connection.

52. [Canceled].

53. [Original] The system according to claim 49 further comprising a recirculation system configured to recirculate process fluid within the connection and wherein the control system is configured to control the recirculation system responsive to monitoring the accumulation.

54. [Original] The system according to claim 49 wherein the connection comprises a connection configured to provide process fluid to the process chamber.

55. [Original] The system according to claim 49 wherein the connection comprises a drain connection configured to receive process fluid from the process chamber.

Appl. No. 09/517,127
Response to Office Action mailed 09/21/2007

56. [Original] The system according to claim 49 wherein the sensor is configured to monitor turbidity of the process fluid.

57. [Original] The system according to claim 49 wherein the process chamber comprises a process chamber of a chemical-mechanical polishing processor.

58. [Previously Presented] A semiconductor workpiece process fluid system comprising:

a connection configured to transport a semiconductor workpiece process fluid relative to a semiconductor process chamber;

a sensor oriented relative to the connection and configured to output a signal indicative of the semiconductor workpiece process fluid;

a control system coupled to receive the signal from the sensor and configured to monitor the semiconductor workpiece process fluid using the signal; and

a drain coupled to the connection, and the control system is configured to control the drain to remove at least a portion of the semiconductor workpiece process fluid from the system responsive to the signal from the sensor.

59. [Previously Presented] The system according to claim 58 wherein the sensor is configured to output the signal indicative of turbidity of the semiconductor workpiece process fluid.

Appl. No. 09/517,127
Response to Office Action mailed 09/21/2007

60. [Previously Presented] The system according to claim 58 wherein the control system is configured to compare the signal with a signature to monitor the semiconductor workpiece process fluid.

61. [Previously Presented] The system according to claim 58 further comprising at least one metering device configured to permit flow of a component of the semiconductor workpiece process fluid, and the control system is configured to control the metering device to control a flow rate of the component responsive to the signal.

62. [Previously Presented] The system according to claim 58 wherein the process chamber comprises a process chamber of a chemical-mechanical polishing processor.

Claims 63-129 [canceled].

130. [Currently Amended] A semiconductor processor system comprising:
a process chamber adapted to process at least one semiconductor workpiece using a process fluid;
a connection coupled with the process chamber and configured to receive the process fluid;
a sensor coupled with the connection and configured to output a signal indicative of the process fluid;

Appl. No. 09/517,127
Response to Office Action mailed 09/21/2007

a control system coupled with the sensor and configured to control at least one operation of the semiconductor processor system responsive to the signal;

wherein the connection comprises a connection of a sampling system configured to provide the process fluid in a substantially static state;

wherein the control system is configured to compare the substantially static process fluid with a signature to determine at least one characteristic of the process fluid; and

wherein the control system is configured to control a flow rate of the process fluid into the process chamber responsive to the comparison; and

wherein the control system is configured to halt processing within the process chamber responsive to the comparison.

Claims 131-132 [canceled].

133. [Currently Amended] A semiconductor processor system comprising:

a process chamber adapted to process ~~Previously Presented~~ semiconductor workpieces using a process fluid;

a connection coupled with the process chamber and configured to receive the process fluid;

a sensor coupled with the connection and configured to output a signal indicative of the process fluid;

a control system coupled with the sensor and configured to control at least one operation of the semiconductor processor system responsive to the signal; and

Appl. No. 09/517,127
Response to Office Action mailed 09/21/2007

a flush system coupled with the connection and configured to selectively flush the connection with a rinse fluid different than the process fluid.

134. [Previously Presented] The system according to claim 133 wherein the flush system is configured to flush the connection with the process fluid.

135. [Previously Presented] The system according to claim 133 wherein the control system is configured to control the flush system responsive to the signal comprising turbidity information of the process fluid provided by the sensor.

Claims 136-151 [canceled].

152. [Previously Presented] The system according to claim 49 wherein gravity causes the accumulated particulate matter to accumulate within the connection.

153. [Previously Presented] The system according to claim 49 wherein the sensor is configured to output the signal indicative of accumulation of particulate matter within a portion of the connection arranged to transport the process fluid in a substantially horizontal direction.

Claims 154-162 [canceled].

Appl. No. 09/517,127
Response to Office Action mailed 09/21/2007

163. [Currently Amended] A semiconductor processor system comprising:
- a process chamber adapted to process at least one semiconductor workpiece using a process fluid;
 - a connection coupled with the process chamber and configured to receive the process fluid;
 - a sensor coupled with the connection and configured to output a signal indicative of the process fluid;
 - a control system coupled with the sensor and configured to control at least one operation of the semiconductor processor system responsive to the signal;
 - wherein the sensor is configured to monitor turbidity of the process fluid;
 - wherein the connection comprises a connection of a sampling system configured to provide the process fluid in a substantially static state;
 - wherein the control system is configured to compare the substantially static process fluid with a signature to determine at least one characteristic of the process fluid; and
 - wherein the control system is configured to control a flow rate of the process fluid into the process chamber responsive to the comparison; and
 - wherein the control system is configured to halt processing within the process chamber responsive to the comparison.

164. [Canceled].

**Appl. No. 09/517,127
Response to Office Action mailed 09/21/2007**

165. [Previously Presented] A semiconductor processor system comprising:
- a process chamber adapted to process at least one semiconductor workpiece using a process fluid;
 - a connection coupled with the process chamber and configured to receive the process fluid;
 - a sensor coupled with the connection and configured to output a signal indicative of the process fluid;
 - a control system coupled with the sensor and configured to control at least one operation of the semiconductor processor system responsive to the signal; wherein the sensor is configured to monitor turbidity of the process fluid; and
 - a flush system coupled with the connection and configured to selectively flush the connection.

166. [Previously Presented] The system of claim 165 wherein the flush system is configured to flush the connection with a rinse fluid different than the process fluid.

167. [Previously Presented] The system of claim 165 wherein the flush system is configured to flush the connection responsive to control from the control system.

Claims 168-176 [canceled].

**Appl. No. 09/517,127
Response to Office Action mailed 09/21/2007**

177. [Previously Presented] The system of claim 165 wherein the sensor is configured to monitor a percentage of solids present within a liquid of the process fluid to monitor the turbidity of the process fluid.

178. [Canceled].

179. [Previously Presented] A semiconductor processor system comprising:
a process chamber adapted to process at least one semiconductor workpiece using a process fluid;
a process fluid system including:
a connection coupled with the process chamber and configured to transport process fluid relative to the process chamber;
a flush system configured to flush the connection using a flush fluid; and
a sensor coupled with the flush system and configured to output a signal indicative of the flush fluid; and
a control system coupled with the sensor and configured to control the flush system to flush the connection responsive to the signal; and
wherein the control system is configured to control the flush system to rinse the connection responsive to a halt operation of the semiconductor processor system.

180. [Previously Presented] The system of claim 179 wherein the flush system is configured to rinse the connection with flush fluid comprising rinse fluid responsive to the halt operation.

**Appl. No. 09/517,127
Response to Office Action mailed 09/21/2007**

181. [Previously Presented] The system of claim 179 wherein the sensor is configured to monitor turbidity of the flush fluid and the control system is configured to control the flush system responsive to the turbidity of the flush fluid.